The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A microtiter plate comprising a plurality of ~~containers~~ wells of a rigid material selected from the group consisting of glass, polystyrene, polyacryl, polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, acrylate butadiene styrene (ABS), Barnox, polyvinylchloride (PVC) ~~PVC~~, nylon ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) ~~EVA~~, polyvinylchloride (PET) ~~PET~~, and combinations thereof, wherein each well is a well of a regular microtiter plate wherein, each well is separated from an adjacent well by a well-dividing wall, wherein the bottom of each ~~container~~ well is comprised of ~~comprises~~ a (semi-)permeable membrane filter capable of directly or indirectly binding an analyte, ~~and wherein each container is separated from an adjacent container by a container dividing wall~~, wherein the wells ~~containers~~ are grouped in one or more clusters, each cluster comprising at least two wells ~~containers~~, wherein said clusters are separated from adjacent clusters by a cluster dividing wall and wherein at least part of the well ~~container~~ dividing wall is lower than the cluster dividing wall or wherein the well ~~container~~ dividing wall contains at least one passageway connecting at least two adjacent wells ~~containers~~ within a cluster, said passageway being at a distance from the bottom of the well ~~container~~ and at least partly below the top of the well ~~container~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein each cluster of containers comprises at least n^2 containers, wherein n is an integer~~, preferably an integer from~~

~~2-10, more preferably 2-5~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein said membrane filter comprises polyvinyldene fluoride (PPVDF) ~~PVDF~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least one well ~~container~~ in a cluster of wells ~~containers~~ comprises a capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to the membrane filter of said well ~~container~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least two wells ~~container~~ in a cluster of wells ~~containers~~ comprise a different amount of capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to said membrane filter.

6. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate ~~pate~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least two wells ~~container~~ in a cluster of wells ~~containers~~ comprise a different capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to said membrane filter.

7. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 4, wherein said analyte is an infectious disease agent or an antibody there against.

8. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least one cluster comprises capture ligands specific for the detection of the causative agent of scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) ~~BSE,~~ chronic wasting disease and/or Creutzfeldt-Jakob

disease.

9. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 8, wherein at least one cluster comprises capture ligands for the detection of prions PrP^{Sc}, PrP^{BSE}, PrP^{CWD} and/or PrP^{CJD}.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of one or more analytes in a liquid sample comprising:

a) providing a microtiter plate according to claim 1;

b) applying said liquid sample to at least one cluster of wells ~~containers~~, filtering said sample through said membrane filter, thereby binding said one or more analytes to said membrane filter or capture ligand, and optionally performing washing steps; and

c) detecting said bound one or more analytes in said wells ~~containers bar~~ by performing a binding assay on said membrane filter~~, said binding assay preferably being a chemiluminescent immunoassay~~.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more analytes comprise an infectious disease agent or an antibody there against.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11, wherein the infectious disease agent is a prion ~~preferably a TSE-causing prion~~.

13. (Cancel)

14. (Cancel)

15. (New) The microtiter plate according to claim 2, wherein n is an integer of from 2 to 10.

16. (New) The microtiter plate according to claim 2, wherein n is an integer of from 2 to 10.

17. (New) Method according to claim 10, wherein the binder assay is a chemiluminescent immunoassay.

18. (New) Method according to claim 12, wherein the prion is an prion causing bovine spongiform encephalopathy.